

Namibia

COUNTRY:
Namibia

USAID FUNDING PERIOD:
May, 2001-September, 2002

PROJECT:
Schooled for Success: Promoting Full School Participation by Orphans and Other Vulnerable Children

USAID AMOUNT:
\$117,815

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS:
Catholic AIDS Action and Family Health International/IMPACT

PURPOSE

Family Health International/IMPACT has contracted with Catholic AIDS Action to expand upon their work with communities to keep orphaned and vulnerable children in school. Concurrently, Family Health International/IMPACT is providing support to the Directorate of Developmental Social Welfare Services to develop a national orphans and vulnerable children policy and guidelines for implementation.

Catholic AIDS Action has already identified more than 2,700 orphans and vulnerable children through its development of a national network of 600 home-based family care volunteers. Although most client-cases begin by caring for a sick adult, after that adult dies, the volunteer makes an effort to maintain contact with the children once orphaned.

The project goal is to promote full school participation for "identified" orphaned and vulnerable children, with a special emphasis on increasing educational opportunities for girls in three regions in Namibia where Catholic AIDS Action has ongoing home-based care programs.

Based on the success of the pilot program (which provided support for 100 orphans and vulnerable children), an expanded program—using trained volunteers and a school voucher system wherever possible—will be implemented over the next 18 months. Within this context, Catholic AIDS Action has pledged to try to obtain a fee discount (or waiver) from the school for each orphan and vulnerable child.

Catholic AIDS Action is using its existing home-based care program volunteers to identify and register "needy" orphans and vulnerable children, using a simple questionnaire and request for assistance form. Catholic AIDS Action will build on this infrastructure of volunteers to provide care and psychosocial support to more than 1,000 orphaned and vulnerable children in the three intervention regions. Specific activities include:

- Identifying and registering more than 1,000 needy children in the target areas;
- Assessing children's needs, past level of education, grade, and school to attend;
- Advocating for acceptance in selected schools;
- Providing a means to continue school attendance;
- Developing a system of periodic supervision for successful school attendance;
- Identifying and providing additional psychosocial needs of orphans and vulnerable children;
- Psychosocial training for volunteers; and
- Development of psychosocial training manual as part of the training curricula for home-based care volunteers.

As the project expands it is focusing on HIV/AIDS prevention and education for parents, teachers, and pupils in addition to providing support to participating schools. Contacts are being made with community and church-based volunteers (Anglican, Lutheran, other

interested church groups, and the Red Cross) to expand orphans and other vulnerable children support within their communities. The project is working closely with the Directorate of Developmental Social Welfare Services within the Ministry of Health and Social Services.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Registration of orphans and vulnerable children in the targeted regions is ongoing;
- Volunteer assessment of orphans and vulnerable children needs is being completed;
- An orphans and vulnerable children household data form has been drafted;
- 2 key staff members have been hired;
- Memory Box training is continuing;
- 20 staff members and volunteers participated in the first national conference on orphans and vulnerable children; and
- A one-day workshop was held on psychosocial training needs of Catholic AIDS Action staff.

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES, 2001–2002

- Involvement of the community and traditional leaders continues;
- A training-of-trainers session in psychosocial support will occur in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (two trainers with Catholic AIDS Action and one with Phillippi Trust);
- A training-of-trainers workshop will be held in Namibia for Catholic AIDS Action and other non-governmental organization staff and volunteers (with technical assistance from Terres des Hommes staff in Zimbabwe and Switzerland);

- A psychosocial training curricula will be developed; and
- Selected volunteers will be trained as community paralegals.

PROJECT MATERIALS AND TOOLS

- Orphans and vulnerable children household data form; and
- Psychosocial training manual.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The project can provide expertise for other orphans and vulnerable children projects in the following areas:

- Home-based counseling and care;
- Organizational structure and training; and
- Care for caregivers.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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COUNTRY:
Namibia

Centre/Family Health
International/IMPACT

PROJECT:
Human Rights and Legal Support
for Orphans and Vulnerable Children,
People Living with HIV/AIDS, and
Workplace HIV Policies

USAID FUNDING PERIOD:
April 2001-September 2002

USAID AMOUNT:
\$116,567

IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATIONS:
AIDS Law Unit-Legal Assistance

PURPOSE

This project focuses on the prevention and mitigation of HIV/AIDS in the workplace and the reduction of the vulnerability of children by addressing discrimination and promoting a human rights-based approach to HIV/AIDS. The primary objective of the project is to facilitate a legal and social environment that encourages openness about HIV infection and increases fair and equitable treatment of HIV-infected persons.

The AIDS Law Unit works closely with Catholic AIDS Action, and AIDS Care Trust, as well as with organizations of people living with HIV/AIDS and provide training on inheritance, will writing, basic rights, access to benefits, and entitlements. The AIDS Law Unit also has close working relationships with government ministries, trade unions, and employer organizations.

The project deals with issues of discrimination and other rights issues pertaining to HIV/AIDS on a number of levels including litigation, research, policy formulation, education, and advocacy with a view to placing HIV/AIDS on the agenda as a human rights issue and the provision of basic client services in terms of legal advice and assistance to people with HIV/AIDS.

Key results being pursued include:

- Implementing appropriate workplace policies on HIV/AIDS and ensuring access of people with HIV/AIDS to employment and employment benefits;
- Ensuring access of people, and particularly children with HIV/AIDS, to adequate health care in the public sector and nondiscrimination with respect to private medical aid schemes and insurance;

- Ensuring nondiscriminatory access of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS or living with HIV/AIDS to education;
- Ensuring access by people living with HIV/AIDS to information and advice on adequately providing for children after death;
- Ensuring nondiscriminatory access by children orphaned by HIV/AIDS to foster care, adoption, and places of safety, where appropriate; and
- Ensuring access by the caregivers of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS to advice and information on their rights and entitlements under social security and welfare legislation.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Assistance was given to two employers and one trade union in developing appropriate HIV/AIDS policies in the workplace;
- A preparatory meeting was hosted for Namibian AIDS service organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and other civil society representatives for the United National General Assembly Special Session on HIV;
- Fundraising technical assistance was given to a newly formed association of people living with HIV/AIDS;
- Presentations were made to top and middle management at Bank Windhoek, the Road Contractors Company, and the Bank of Namibia; and
- A series of workshops were held on will writing, inheritance, HIV/AIDS, law and human rights for traditional leaders, and health care workers.

PRIORITY ACTIVITIES, 2001–2002

- Review the Labor Act and Labor Court Rules, and the Consolidated Employee Compensation and Social Security Acts;
- Continue advocacy work with government and the private sector for the adoption of appropriate policies and legal mechanisms to address HIV/AIDS and discrimination; and
- Design and conduct education and training programs on HIV/AIDS and discrimination in order to raise awareness of a rights-based approach. Target audiences will include decision-makers, employer and employee organizations, health care and social workers, educators, and community-based organizations. The recently adopted HIV/AIDS Charter of Rights will be used as an educational tool to promote human rights-based approach to HIV/AIDS in Namibia.

PROJECT MATERIALS AND TOOLS

- Paralegal training manual on HIV/AIDS and rights; and
- Training pamphlets on HIV/AIDS, HIV/AIDS in the workplace; insurance and social benefits; inheritance and wills; and the rights of children orphaned by or living with HIV/AIDS.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

The project can provide expertise for other orphans and vulnerable children projects in the following areas:

- Proposal writing;
- Organizational planning;
- Advocacy skills;
- Workplace policies; and
- HIV and discrimination (workplace and military).

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